

Library 24-9-03.

BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH AND SANITARY
CIRCUMSTANCES
OF BIDEFORD
FOR THE YEAR
1962



BY

H. MERVYN THOMAS, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector

BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH AND SANITARY
CIRCUMSTANCES
OF BIDEFORD
FOR THE YEAR
1962

BY

H. MERVYN THOMAS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I., Chief Public Health Inspector

Public Health Staff

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

H. MERVYN THOMAS, M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H., D.C.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G. H. WHEELER, Cert. R.S.H.

To the Bideford Borough Council

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended December 1962.

My thanks go to Dr. C. J. Carey, my predecessor, for his guidance in the transfer of duties on my taking up office in May ; to the Clerk, Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector for their help and co-operation at all times, and to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support and encouragement.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Yours faithfully,

H. MERVYN THOMAS.

July, 1963.

ANNUAL REPORT

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	.....	4,068 acres
Population (Registrar-General's mid-year estimate)	.....	10,820
Number of Inhabited Houses	.....	3,378
Rateable Value	.....	£154,185
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.....	£619

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	{ Legitimate	Males 86	Females 65		
	{ Illegitimate	Males 7	Females 3	.....	161
Crude Birth Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	14.8
Corrected Birth Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	15.5
Birth Rate for England and Wales	.....	.....	.....	.....	18.0
Still Births	{ Legitimate	Males 1	Females 1		
	{ Illegitimate	Males Nil	Females 1	.....	3
Infant Deaths (under 1 year)	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Infant Mortality rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	24.8
Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales	.....	.....	.....	.....	21.4
Maternal Deaths	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Total Deaths—Males 65	Females 73	.....	.....	.....	138
Crude Death Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	12.7
Corrected Death Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.9
Death Rate for England and Wales	.....	.....	.....	.....	11.9

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females
Cancer of Stomach	3	2
Cancer of lung	5	Nil
Cancer of breast	Nil	3
Cancer of uterus	Nil	2
Other malignant neoplasms	10	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	10
Coronary heart disease	13	8
Hypertension with heart disease	Nil	3
Other heart diseases	6	16
Other circulatory diseases	6	15
Bronchitis	5	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	Nil	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	Nil
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	Nil	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	Nil	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	Nil
Congenital malformations	Nil	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3
Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil
Other accidents	3	1
Suicide	1	Nil
	65	73

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED

Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	4
Measles	....	....	....	288
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	2
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	....	....	....	3
Number of Tuberculosis cases on the register on 31st December, 1962	....	....	....	63

ACTIVE IMMUNISATION

Routine immunisation is now offered to children against the following diseases :—

Diphtheria—Whooping cough—Tetanus (combined)
Poliomyelitis
and Tuberculosis.

This service is provided by the Local Health Authority in Child Welfare Clinics and schools, and by general medical practitioners.

Now that the number of immunising procedures are greater and more varied than ever before their timing and sequence are of special importance so as to meet the following requirements.

1. The greatest possible measure of immunity should be provided against each particular disease.
2. There should be the least risk of causing harmful reaction or complications, and in particular of inducing provocation poliomyelitis.
3. The number of injections given to the child and the number of visits paid by the mother should be as few as possible.

Accordingly a number of approved schedules of immunisation have been prepared, of which the one given below is an example.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Visit</i>	<i>Vaccine</i>	<i>Injection</i>	<i>Interval</i>
1 to 6 months	1	Diphtheria-Tetanus	1	4-6 weeks
		Pertussis		
	2	„	2	4-6 weeks
7 to 11 months	3	„	3	
	4	Poliomyelitis (oral)	—	4-8 weeks
	5	„	—	4-8 weeks
18 to 21 months	6	„	—	
	7	Diphtheria-Tetanus	4	
Smallpox during the first two years, preferably in the second year.				
School entry		Diphtheria and Tetanus		
		Poliomyelitis (Oral)		
8 to 12 years		Diphtheria and Tetanus		
Over 12 years		B.C.G. (Tuberculosis)		

MEALS ON WHEELS SCHEME

The National Assistance Act 1948 (Amendment) Act 1962 extends the previous powers of local authorities so as to enable them to provide meals and recreation for old people, either directly or through the agency of voluntary organisations.

Following consultation between representatives of the Women's Voluntary Service, the County Welfare Department and the Local Authority, it was decided to implement a Meals on Wheels scheme in Bideford. The service is financed jointly by the County and Borough Councils and a charge of 1/6d. is made to each recipient of the meal.

The scheme has proved to be of great benefit to the elderly and infirm and one pays tribute to the local meals on wheels organiser and her colleagues in the W.V.S. for their competence in making the scheme a success and to the Geneva School canteen supervisor for her willingness and co-operation in making the meals available.

Meals have been provided twice weekly for between 24 and 28 individuals.

FLUORIDATION OF THE WATER SUPPLY

Towards the end of the year this Authority as a water undertaking was asked by the Devon County Council to agree to enter into arrangements for adjusting the natural fluoride content of the local water supply to a concentration of one part per million as a means of reducing the incidence of dental caries. Also a circular was issued by the Ministry of Health which gave approval to such arrangements subject to the technical aspects being kept under supervision by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

Up to the time of writing this report fluoridation has unfortunately been the subject of some controversy in spite of assurances given by the Ministry of Health that this is a safe and essential means of preventing dental decay and that the scruples of those who oppose it are groundless and without foundation. Expert opinion at the highest levels in this country, represented by such bodies as the Standing Dental Advisory Committee (England and Wales), the Joint Sub-committee of the Standing Medical Advisory Committees of England and Wales and of Scotland, the British Medical Association, the British Dental Association and the Society of Medical Officers of Health, is unequivocally in favour of fluoridation. As far as Bideford is concerned local doctors and dentists seem clearly united in their support of fluoridation without reservations.

A small but vociferous group of opponents of fluoridation appear to have organised themselves as the National Pure Water Association and have been campaigning vigorously to spread much fear and consternation based on misleading statements and misrepresentation as to influence public opinion against fluoridation. The propaganda issued by this organisation is so skilfully compiled and presented that it seldom fails to make a strong emotional impact particularly on the lay public, yet it does not deceive those who are in a position to have made an objective appraisal of the medical and scientific publications on the subject.

Bideford shares the problem of dental decay with the rest of the country. During 1962, out of 1,973 schoolchildren submitted for routine dental inspections 702 were found to require treatment which consists mainly of tooth extraction. An "emergency" school dental clinic is held weekly in Bideford to deal with a dreary procession of young children with toothache, the average weekly attendance being 12.

Quite apart from the suffering caused by decayed teeth, tooth extraction in the young can lead to serious jaw deformity due to malocclusion.

There are some opponents of fluoridation who maintain that because excessive chewing of sweets and lack of dental hygiene are the primary causes of tooth decay, appropriate parental training is the answer not fluoridation. To withhold fluoridation for this reason is like withholding a life-belt from a drowning man because he has not been taught to swim by his parents ! Fluoridation has been proved to be the most effective means of preventing dental caries. It has never been claimed to be a complete remedy for bad dietary habits and dental neglect.

FOOD HYGIENE

During the year the Authority considered my report on the unsatisfactory conditions under which open food is handled and exposed for sale in the pannier market ; and my recommendations for improving these conditions. Improvements to the butchers shops have since been put in hand, but the cafe premises have yet to be dealt with. The recommendation prohibiting the sale of clotted cream from the pannier stalls otherwise than in prepacked containers was not approved.

In my view the pannier stalls are unsuitable places for the handling and exposure for sale of open food and as far as cream is concerned, the Milk and Dairies Regulations can be interpreted as making it an offence for this commodity to be handled and sold loose under such conditions. It is acknowledged that the Authority, who is responsible for providing market facilities, may be faced with some difficulty in the matter. It might be felt that to impose restrictions unacceptable to the stall holders might lead to more and more stalls being vacated with consequent loss of revenue to the council and possibly to the market being abolished altogether. However, if due regard is to be given to safeguarding the public health by eliminating obvious risks of food infection, even traditional methods of trading and long established custom must surely give way to modern standards of hygiene. The introduction of hygienic precautions and the survival of the market need not necessarily be incompatible so long as all concerned are made aware of their responsibilities and come to accept change as necessary in the interests of public health.

Inspection of food premises generally in the Borough was made on a very limited scale. Some improvements were effected following informal consultation with proprietors and managers. However, a comprehensive system of inspection is quite impossible without the appointment of an additional public health inspector, and indeed in the

absence of such assistance the Authority cannot undertake fully its duties prescribed by regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act.

UNFIT DWELLINGS

Improvement Grants

In a circular issued in August, the Minister of Housing and Local Government asked all Local Authorities to make a determined and sustained effort in bringing about a very big increase in the number of houses improved under the improvement grant schemes. To quote from this circular "... the Minister is convinced that for a real impact Local Authorities must be prepared to make a systematic approach to the problem. This means tackling it street by street or area by area ; and it entails—especially at the outset—a great deal of work."

It is not considered sufficient merely to rely on general publicity to make landlords and tenants aware of the possibilities of improvement and the grants available. Rather should the Local Authority take positive action in advising landlords and tenants in specific cases what improvements are possible and persuading those concerned to have them carried out.

With the limited public health inspectorate it is difficult to implement this policy in the Borough.

Slum Clearance

There are in the Borough a number of worn out houses which cannot be dealt with under the improvement grant schemes. Most of these have been included in a revised clearance programme submitted to and recently adopted by the Council.

The social repercussions of slum clearance have been stressed, and although cases of hardship and distress can arise particularly amongst elderly folk this aspect can be grossly exaggerated. The problems which have been mentioned in connection with the demolition of condemned houses include, increased rental payable by displaced persons on their being rehoused by the Council, outstanding mortgages payable on the dwellings to be demolished, and uprooting of individuals from familiar surroundings. It should be emphasised however that not all elderly folk object to being rehoused in modern houses, whilst those who feel they prefer to live out their remaining years in their unfit houses can be brought round to accepting change if approached with tact and understanding. Again those whose objections to being rehoused are based on fear of financial hardship entailed thereby can and should be reassured that there are social agencies in existence which can offer assistance as of right and not of "charity."

The Authority is alive to its obligations regarding the social and human problems of slum clearance, but it is important to establish and preserve satisfactory public relations so that unnecessary fear and distress due to ignorance, false rumour and misrepresentation are avoided.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE

Adoptive Public General Acts

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ..	15th June, 1893
Private Street Works Act, 1892	
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907— Parts 2 (except Sec. 29). Parts 3, 4 and 6 Parts 7 (except Secs. 82, 84, 85, and 86) Parts 8, 9 and Part 10 (except Sec. 94)	April, 1909
Public Health Act, 1925, Part 2 (except sections 21 and 22)	1st January, 1926

BYELAWS

With respect to Markets	16th February, 1882
With respect to the Driving of Cattle	5th March, 1888
With respect to the Obstruction of Foot- passengers	8th August, 1892
For the navigation of the River Torridge within the Harbour of Bideford	4th July, 1894
With respect to the Lighting of Vehicles ..	11th November, 1899
With respect to the disturbance of persons assembled in public buildings, shooting- galleries, round-about, etc., street music and bad language	25th June, 1900
Prohibiting Spitting in Public Places	31st January, 1911
With respect to the Victoria Park Pleasure- Ground	18th January, 1913
With respect to New Streets	10th July, 1928
With respect to the Management of the Public Cemetery (Repealed in Part)	18th August, 1930 and 12th June, 1947
Regulating the use of Motor Boats within the Harbour	17th August, 1931
Relating to Violent Behaviour on Elementary School Premises.. .. .	1st April, 1951
For the Regulation of Advertisements ..	3rd December, 1939

With respect to the Decent Conduct of Persons using Public Sanitary Conveniences	1st April, 1937
With respect to :—	
(1) Nuisance contrary to Public Decency ..	
(2) Deposit of litter to the Detriment of Public Amenities	
(3) Wireless, Loudspeakers, Gramophones, etc.	1st February, 1937
For securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions and Practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food	15th November, 1950
With respect to the supply of water	1st April, 1951
Sale of Contraceptives in Slot Machines ..	18th January, 1950
Prohibiting cycling on certain footpaths ..	1st April, 1951
With respect to Victoria Park	1st February, 1953
With respect to the Fouling of Footpaths by Dogs	15th June, 1953
With respect to Library, Reading Room and Museum	18th September, 1953
With respect to Cycling on the Riverbank ..	9th November, 1953
With respect to Building Byelaws	31st December, 1953
As Amended and Extended, relating to Thermal Insulation of Buildings, Flue-pipes Generally and Smoke Prevention	1st July, 1961
For the prevention and suppression of nuisances with respect to : 1, Loading of Vehicles ; 2, Deposit of Mud on Highways ; 3, Noisy Animals ; 4, Preservation of Road Margins laid out for Ornamental Purposes	1st July, 1957

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE
BIDEFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have much pleasure in submitting my twelfth Annual Report on the sanitary administration of the area.

Once again I have to deplore the fact that detailed and systematic housing inspection and regular inspection of special premises including food premises was not possible during the year. Meat inspection, as always, occupied the greatest portion of inspectorial time in continuing to provide a first class service. This service is a very necessary function of the Department but it is wrong that other spheres of work should suffer as they do. Premises in which food is handled, treated and sold should be visited as often as possible and certainly not less frequently than twice or three times a year. In the sphere of housing little use was made of the facilities provided by improvement schemes. This does not seem to be purely a local circumstance since it will be recalled that towards the end of the year under review the Minister of Housing and Local Government was deploring the same fact and was urging all local authorities to make an "all out" effort to achieve a very big increase in the number of houses being improved. To achieve this end the only way to tackle the problem would appear to be survey of the district street by street or area by area. In these days of improved conditions of living, eating and environmental hygiene a big job of work is put upon Public Health Departments who must be provided with adequate qualified personnel. If the work in this area is to be undertaken in a proper manner it can be done only by increasing the Department's inspectorial staff.

Housing

There was an increased activity in this sphere and thirty-three new houses were completed including fifteen by the local authority. Of the Council houses five were used to re-house families displaced from Willett Street and three for families displaced from the Priors Buildings Clearance Areas, confirmation of which Orders was issued by the Ministry.

Much continues to be said about the misery inflicted on the residents of properties dealt with under slum clearance and this has a great tendency to slow down progress. Whilst much sympathy must be felt for these people, especially where they may have spent a life-time in their houses, it is certainly a gratifying fact that once they have settled in their new homes they express great pleasure in their removal and wonderment as to how they put up for so long with the conditions from which they have been taken.

Demolition of the Torridge Street Clearance Area was completed but the difficulty of getting the work of clearance done by individual owners was such that the work had to be carried out by the Council. This incident emphasises the necessity, if Clearance Areas are to be properly cleared up, for the Council to arrange the carrying out of the work in all cases in order that clearance of areas may proceed in a smooth and orderly fashion.

Other properties dealt with on the grounds of unfitness were :—

- (i) five demolished ;
- (ii) one demolition order made ;
- (iii) one closing order made.

All the necessary re-housing was undertaken by the Council.

Improvement Grants.

Less interest was shown during the year in the improvement of house property with the aid of grant. Seventeen applications were received—four for discretionary and thirteen for standard grants.

Of the former, one was approved with a total of approved expenses amounting to £600 and this related to the provision of two flats in an existing large house. Nine of the standard grant applications were accepted for work which attracted a total maximum grant of £1,263. Three applications were not proceeded with and one was refused.

For work completed by the close of the year £904 6s. 8d. was paid.

Rent Act 1957.

One application was made for a Certificate of Disrepair but, following the carrying out of work of repair, issue of the Certificate was not necessary.

Houses completed and occupied during the year were :—

(a) By the Borough Council	15
(b) By Private Enterprise	18
Total	33
Applicants on housing list at end of 1961	79
Applicants added to list during 1962	65
Total	144
Housed by transfers and new tenancies in existing premises during the year	42
Removed from the list having obtained private accommodation or left the district	20
Number on list at end of year	82

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS

Dwellings inspected under Public Health Acts	174
Revisits made under Public Health Acts	202
Miscellaneous under Public Health Acts	103
Clean Air Act	3
Clean Air Act—Revisits	1
Noise Abatement Act	2
Noise Abatement Act—Revisits	3
Dwellings inspected under Housing Acts	45
Revisits made under Housing Acts	17
Miscellaneous under Housing Acts	26
Overcrowding	2
Housing Acts (Discretionary Grant)	28
Housing Acts (Discretionary Grant) Revisits	43
Standard Grants	20
Standard Grants—Revisits	42
Certificate of Disrepair (Rent Act 1957)	1
Certificate of Disrepair (Rent Act 1957) Revisits	1
Council Houses (including investigation of Council House applications)	134
Meat Inspections	752
Inspection of Food and Food Premises	30
Inspection of Food and Food Premises—Revisits	2
Inspection of Ice Cream Premises	26
Inspection of Pannier Market and Butchers Row	3
Cattle Market	3
Butchers Shops	5
Fish Shops	5
Food Hygiene Regulations	4
Factories Act	4
Factories Act—Revisits	2
Pet Animals Act	1
Milk and Dairies Act	5
Water Supply	5
Water Samples taken (Bacteriological)	58
Water Samples taken (Chemical)	2
Petroleum	24
Petroleum—Revisits	22
Infectious Diseases	5
Infectious Diseases—Revisits	1
Insect Pests	2
Insect Pests—Revisits	1
Refuse Tip	3
Drainage	74
Drainage—Revisits	18
Mortuary	4
Rodent Control	39
Rodent Control—Revisits	10
Caravan Sites	1
Accumulation	3
Marine Store	1
Dustbins	3
Number of Preliminary Notices served	66
Number of Preliminary Notices completed	64
Number of Statutory Notices served	7
Number of Statutory Notices completed	3
Number of Notices served under Food Hygiene Regulations	1
Number of Notices completed under Food Hygiene Regulations	1
Number of Notices served under Factories Act	2
Number of Notices completed under Factories Act	2

Number of Notices served under Clean Air Act 1956	....	....	....	....	2
Number of Notices completed under Clean Air Act 1956	....	....	....	....	2
Number of Houses demolished	....	....	....	....	7

The Chief defects that have been dealt with are :—

Roofs repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	56
Defective Floors repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Defective Doors, Locks, etc. repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	93
Defective Windows and Sashcords repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	59
Handrails repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Defective Skirting Boards repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Broken Glass replaced	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
New Draining Boards supplied	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Interior Plaster repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
Exterior Plaster repaired	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15
Defective Ceilings repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
New W.C.s provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Defective W.Cs. Flushing Cisterns, Overflows and Seats repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	91
Defective Eaves Gutters, Vent Pipes and Down Pipes repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	18
Choked Drains cleared	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
New Manholes provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
Defective Sinks or Washbasins repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	19
Defective Cookers, Firegrates or Stoves repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	185
Defective Electric Fridges, Washboilers, Points and Switches repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	75
Defective Gas Boilers or Geysers repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	48
Defective Water Supply, Water Tanks, Taps and Pipes repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	97
Defective Waste Pipes repaired or renewed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
New Bathrooms provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8
New Hot Water Systems installed	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
New Foodstores provided	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Dampness remedied	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Whole Houses re-decorated	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Rooms re-decorated	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Accumulation cleared	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Miscellaneous items including Yards, Footpaths, Fences, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	128

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	78	2	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	9	—	—	—
Total	101	2	—	—

2. Defects Found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	2	Nil	2	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1	3	Nil	2	Nil

Part VIII of the Act. OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome Premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel— Making, Etc.	81	—	—	—	—	—

RAINFALL

The Borough Surveyor kindly supplied the following particulars of the rainfall recorded at Gammaton and Jennetts for the year 1962.

						<i>Gammaton</i>	<i>Jennetts</i>
January	..	..	..	..	..	5.30	6.34
February	..	..	..	..	..	0.87	1.11
March	..	..	..	..	..	2.39	2.65
April	..	..	..	..	..	2.43	2.52
May	..	..	..	..	..	2.19	2.06
June	..	..	..	..	..	0.48	0.51
July	..	..	..	..	..	1.83	1.69
August	..	..	..	..	..	2.52	2.84
September	..	..	..	..	..	2.86	3.31
October	..	..	..	..	..	0.92	0.86
November	..	..	..	..	..	2.23	2.57
December	..	..	..	..	..	1.88	2.06
						25.90	28.52
						Inches	Inches

WATER SUPPLY

1. Public Supplies

A satisfactory supply of water continued to be supplied by the Council from their two sources, namely Jennetts Reservoir and Gammaton Reservoir supplemented in the former case by water from the Yeo-Duntz stream pumped from Edge Mill to the reservoir and in the latter by water purchased in bulk from the North Devon Water Board and piped to the clear water tank at Gammaton. Raw waters were treated by filtration and all waters were chlorinated before passing into circulation ; generally speaking the quality of the water has been satisfactory and it was not necessary to curtail supplies during the year. The Water Department's detection of leaks continues, but despite their ever-watchful eye, rate of consumption increased.

Apart from the extension of the water main in Stucley Road by the laying of 180 yards of 4in. diameter piping, no works of extension or improvement were undertaken to supplies during the year but tenders were invited for the undertaking of an improvement scheme at Gammaton. By the end of the year no contract had been let in this connection.

Thirty-four samples of water were taken from various points on the Jennetts supply and sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter for bacteriological examination. All thirty-four samples were Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's classification for piped supplies.

Twenty-four samples of water were taken from various points on the Gammaton supply and sent for bacteriological examination. Twenty-two samples were Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's classification for piped supplies and two were classed as unsatisfactory. Remedial action was taken in respect of the two unsatisfactory samples.

2. Private Supplies

Five samples of water were taken from wells at private houses ; of these four were satisfactory and one unsatisfactory. The well from which the unsatisfactory sample was taken, being a second well to the property, was closed for drinking purposes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No major works of sewerage were undertaken during the year.

For some time the Council has felt concern at the inadequacy of the town's sewerage systems and some urgency arose by the request of an adjoining district that the discharge of sewage into that district's system should be discontinued. Consultant engineers were engaged and by the end of the year had been undertaking surveys with a view to preparing schemes for improving the sewerage system throughout the town.

Following the installation during the previous year of four pumps along the riverbank to alleviate, as a temporary measure, the flooding of the Kenwith Valley priority was given to the provision of flood water storage basins to prevent flooding by storm water of the Chanters Lane area. Surveys in this connection were still proceeding at the end of the year.

INSECT PESTS

No trouble was experienced from infestations during the year.

Treatment of the Refuse Tip with "Tip Dressing" was continued as a preventative measure against the breeding of flies.

RODENT CONTROL

The annual testing and treatment of sewers was undertaken and it was again found that the sewers were for the most part comparatively free from infestation.

Following my previous reports on the matter the Council agreed to the mechanisation of work on the refuse tip and during the year the benefits of the new Crawler Tractor were felt. A treatment of the tip carried out on the 25th June indicated a very much reduced rat population and subsequent observations support this view that the rat population is reduced to a minimum.

Arising out of the retirement of the workman dealing with rodent control three members of the Borough Surveyor's outdoor staff, including the foreman, were placed at the disposal of this Department for infestation control and a short course of instruction in survey and disinfection measures was given to them by an Instructor from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Inspection of premises in the area continued and infestations found were treated by the Council's rodent operators. No charge was made for work done by the Council in respect of domestic premises.

Four hundred and three dwelling houses and seventy business premises were visited and treatment was carried out on eleven dwellings and four business premises, the latter being dealt with by the owners under supervision.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

As indicated earlier in this report the throughput of meat, although not so high as in the previous year when an all-time high figure was reached, remained at a high level and requirements of butchers, not only in the town but in neighbouring districts and areas as far afield as Ilfracombe, Barnstaple, Okehampton and Exeter and those of wholesale markets in London continued to be satisfactorily met. Provision continued to be made also for individual butchers to have their livestock slaughtered.

27,728 animals were slaughtered and dressed at the abattoir, and of these 32 Bullocks, 18 Calves, 385 Sheep and 176 Pigs were sent to the Abattoir for emergency slaughter.

In addition to the above, there were brought to the Abattoir the “dressed” carcasses of 5 Sheep.

The incidence of *Cysticercus Bovis* (the embryo form of tapeworm infesting man) was found to be 2.59 and although this is the lowest since 1955 it still remains high by national figures.

All carcasses found to be affected with this parasite were, as in previous years, sent away for appropriate refrigeration before release for human consumption.

The following table shows the incidence of infestation detected in animals slaughtered in this area since 1952.

Year	Throughput of Cattle	Carcasses affected with <i>C. Bovis</i>	% of throughput affected with <i>C. Bovis</i>
1952	1655	81 (<i>part year</i>)	4.89
1953	1886	96	5.09
1954	2270	89	3.90
1955	2677	66 (+ 1 Generalised)	2.47
1956	3118	94 (+ 1 Generalised)	3.01
1957	3466	117 (+ 1 Generalised)	3.37
1958	3201	105 (+ 1 Generalised)	3.28
1959	3219	110	3.42
1960	3970	180	4.53
1961	4835	151	3.12
1962	4781	123 (+ 1 Generalised)	2.59

The “dressed” carcasses were of animals that had been slaughtered and “dressed” at farms as the animals, because of injury or some other emergency, had been unable to travel to the Abattoir.

STUNNING. In compliance with statutory requirements, all animals that are killed in the slaughterhouse are rendered insensible to pain by means of a mechanically operated instrument.

The following Tables give a summary of the work carried out :—

Table A. Gives details of the animals killed and the number of carcasses or organs condemned, also showing percentages of the carcasses affected, differentiating between

1—All diseases except Tuberculosis.

2—Tuberculosis only.

3—Cysticercosis.

Table B. Gives the weight of Meat and Offal condemned and the causes of condemnation.

Table C. Shows the amount of “ Other Foodstuffs ” condemned and reasons for condemnation.

TABLE A
CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	4257	524	252	16398	6297	—
Dressed Carcases....	—	—	—	5	—	—
Number inspected	4257	524	252	16403	6297	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases con- demned....	26	4	21	114	39	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2192	407	2	2439	550	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysti- cerci	52.10	78.43	9.12	15.50	9.35	—
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcases con- demned....	—	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	2	—	—	144	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.02	0.38	—	—	2.31	—
Cysticercosis.						
Carcases of which some part or or- gan was con- demned	114	9	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by re- frigeration	114	9	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of num- bers inspected affected with Cystic-Bovis	2.70	1.90				

TABLE

SUMMARY OF MEAT CONDEMNATION WITH

<i>Food Stuffs Condemned</i>	<i>Cause of Condemnation</i>	<i>Whole Carcase</i>
Beef	Tuberculosis	—
Beef	Other causes	30
Beef Parts	Do.	—
Beef Offal	Do.	—
Veal	Other Causes	21
Veal Part	Do.	—
Pork	Tuberculosis	2
Pork Parts	Do.	—
Pork	Other Causes	39
Pork Parts	Do.	—
Pork Offal	Do.	—
Mutton	Septic Arthritis and Oedema	18
Do.	Do.	—
Do.	Fevered	1
Do.	Ill-bled	17
Do.	Oedema and Emaciation	16
Do.	Haemorrhage	1
Do.	Do.	—
Do.	Septic Metritis	10
Do.	Injury	10
Do.	Do.	—
Do.	Pleurisy	3
Do.	Do.	—
Do.	Mastitis	1
Do.	Arthritis	4
Do.	Do.	—
Do.	Moribund	6
Do.	Septic Pneumonia and Pleurisy	7
Do.	Do.	—
Do.	Septicaemia	5
Do.	Oedema and Injury	7
Do.	Emaciation and Dropsy	2
Do.	Oedematous	20
Do.	Parasites and Cysts	—
Do.	Abscessed	—
Mutton Offal	Distoma Hepaticum-Cysts and Congestion	—

B

CAUSE OF CONDEMNATION AND WEIGHT

<i>Part Carcases</i>	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
1	—	—	—	10				
—	6	16	0	6				
27	—	13	1	1				
2581	13	8	1	4				
—	—	7	2	14	20	17	2	21
1	—	—	—	6				
—	—	1	3	18	—	7	2	20
145	—	14	3	1				
—	1	16	1	13				
58	—	11	0	0				
487	—	16	2	5				
—	—	6	1	12	4	0	2	9
4	—	—	3	6				
—	—	—	3	7				
—	—	9	3	5				
—	—	6	0	9				
—	—	—	2	2				
1	—	—	—	26				
—	—	5	3	16				
—	—	3	3	13				
6	—	—	2	3				
—	—	—	3	20				
6	—	1	1	12				
—	—	—	2	15				
—	—	1	0	27				
1	—	—	—	24				
—	—	2	3	7				
—	—	3	0	2				
1	—	—	—	18				
—	—	3	0	6				
—	—	3	2	21				
—	—	—	2	24				
—	—	9	1	12				
1	—	—	—	4				
4	—	—	1	20				
2397	2	9	0	12				
					5	10	2	15
Total					30	16	2	9

TABLE C

Foodstuffs Condemned	Cause of Condemnation	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
147 Tins of Meat	Tins blown or decomposition	—	3	2	8	10
Pieces of Meat	Decomposition or bone taint	—	—	3	17	8
246 Tins of Fruit	Tins blown or damaged	—	3	0	24	13
113 Tins of Vegetables	Do.	—	—	2	10	10 ⁸ / ₁₆
15 Tins of Milk	Do.	—	—	—	14	8
41 Tins of Tomatoes	Do.	—	—	2	2	6
7 Tins of Jam	Do.	—	—	—	12	0
10 Tins of Milk Pudding	Do.	—	—	—	7	9
1 Tin of Broth	Do.	—	—	—	—	15 ¹ / ₄
78 Tins of Peas	Do.	—	—	2	4	12 ¹ / ₄
14 Tins of Fish	Do.	—	—	—	8	6
4 Tins of Broad Beans	Do.	—	—	—	14	11 ¹ / ₁₆
10 Tins of Carrots	Do.	—	—	—	27	14 ¹ / ₁₆
2 Tins of Curry	Do.	—	—	—	2	0
47 Tins of Cream	Do.	—	—	—	15	0
2 Packets of Sponge Mixture	Damp and Mouldy	—	—	—	—	13
3 Packets of Almond Cake	Do.	—	—	—	1	8
Covering	Do.	—	—	—	—	2
1 Tin of Coffee	Decomposition	—	—	3	13	0
7 Boxes of Fish	Tin Damaged	—	—	—	1	0
1 Tin of Golden Syrup	Rancid	—	—	—	6	0
12 Packets of Butter	Do.	—	—	—	—	8
1 Packet of Dripping	Failure of Refrigeration Plant	—	5	2	14	5 ³ / ₁₆
394 Packets of Frozen Food		—	—	—	—	—
Total		—	16	3	13	1 ⁸ / ₁₆

(a) The number of food premises in this area, by type of business is :—

Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Butchers Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Cafes and Restaurants including Fish Saloons	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Fish and Chip Shop	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Grocers and Provision Dealers	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Market	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

(b) 10 Premises are registered for the manufacture or storage of preserved foods ;

48 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, one being a wholesale store supplying other retailers.

In addition there is one registered manufacturer of ice cream using the cold mix method of manufacture.

(c) Condemned food is disposed of as follows :—

(i) tinned foods and small quantities of provisions are taken by the Council's cleansing department and buried at the bottom of the refuse tip ;

(ii) condemned meat from butchers shops is taken to the slaughterhouse where it is collected together with condemnations from the Slaughterhouse by a firm who has given an undertaking to the Council that the material taken will be reduced to fats or converted to fertilizers.

(d) Food Hygiene Regulations

30 visits of inspection were made to food premises, van and stalls.

Improvements were secured where necessary.

(e) Samples

Samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination with the following results :—

Producer	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
" A "	2				2
" B "	1				1
" C "	2				2
" D "	2	1			3
" E "	1	2	1		4
" F "	2	1			3
" G "	1				1
" H "	1		2		3
" I "			1		1
" J "	1				1

Advice was given to the retailer in each case where the sample was other than Grade I.

MILK SUPPLY

All milk retailed in the Borough is now either Tuberculin-Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilized.

Eleven purveyors of milk are registered as distributors, one of these being a large concern which is licensed by the Food and Drugs Authority as a pasteurising establishment. This establishment, in addition to selling by retail, supplies by wholesale all but two of the remaining distributors.

There are three premises registered as a dairy.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

Licences were renewed for 36 premises to permit the storage of petroleum spirit. The total quantity of petroleum spirit stored covered by these licences amounted to 54,672 gallons.

The amount of fees paid to the Council in respect of the above Licences was £26-0-0.

I would like to express my appreciation of Dr. Carey's co-operation and to welcome Dr. Thomas who joined us during the year, and I look forward to many years of happy association with him.

In concluding I wish to thank all members and officials of the Corporation and the staff in my office for their help and consideration.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. T. NETTING.



